

648
727 important effects on contemporary al-Qasr. There remain about
648
727 11 million land mines in the ground between Marsa Matruh and
165
164 Ballum. Accidents connected with these mines take one thousand
Bedouin lives every year, and cause about 10,000 injuries
annually. (Reported in al-Ahram, January, 1965). This danger
limits the areas in which the Bedouins can use the tractor, and,
as a result, a great deal of the coastal land must be plowed
by hand. In al-Qasr, physical disfigurements resulting from
mine mishaps were quite common, and most families have had
members killed in this way. In one al-Qasr lineage, 'Ailit
Ma'fas, there have been sixteen men killed by mines since
1943.

Change and Present Attitudes

648
177 Political and economic changes, begun at the turn of
the century, have continued into the present. The Bedouins
of al-Qasr have been increasingly drawn into the political
and economic life of the Egyptian national community. They
have come to depend upon the national market for their
products and upon governmental agricultural subsidies for
their security. The net result of this process has been a
sedentary Bedouin society which is not quite tribal and not
quite peasant. Al-Qasr has this in-between quality--what
Fallers (1961) has called the tertium quid quality.

[829] It is difficult to gauge the feelings of the Bedouins
of al-Qasr about the social changes taking place. They complain

159 the relationship between her and her brothers.

562
428 Following her action and until the time of the study, they had

593 never visited her and she had never visited them. Her husband took

[233] care of the herd; and the arrangement worked out all right until the

159 husband told Fatma one day that he was going to marry a second wife.

562 She refused, but he went ahead with the marriage without her consent.

593 He brought the new wife to live with Fatma in the same tin hut in which

595 they were living. He started to pay more attention to the new wife and

to neglect Fatma; whenever the latter complained, he beat her. Then,

before one of the religious feasts, he sold two of Fatma's sheep and

bought his new wife a dress and a silver bracelet. When Fatma objected

• [164] and they argued, he hit her with a stick on the head; she was hospital-

ized for a week with a serious head wound. While in the hospital, she

went to her brothers who lived only two miles away, but they refused to

come to her assistance. She then went to sheikh Elewa (the aquila of

159 Bait Asabei) and threw herself on him. He met with the husband and con-

562
593 vinced him to divorce Fatma. He kept forty sheep of Fatma's herd as com-

595 pensation for the mahr he had paid her and the marriage expenses, then

586 took his new wife and moved from Fatma's hut. Fatma then returned and

159 managed her financial affairs successfully herself. She managed the

562
444 store and hired a shepherd to take care of the sheep. At the time of

[233] the present study she was respected by almost everybody in the area, in-

cluding members of the local administration. She is known to be reason-

[229] able and of sound opinion, and her store functions as the meeting place

[521] for many of the tribal mi'ads and for casual conversations. She is also

considered as a liason between the tribal population in the area and the

local government administration, and is respected by both sides.